

51249/RAG/Z74

## CLAIMS

1. A method of determining the routing of interconnected regions of a routing problem by considering all required connections in parallel and only attempting to resolve conflicts when at least some relevant contextual information has been assembled.  
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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein resolving of conflicts is only attempted when all possible relevant contextual information has been assembled.
3. A method according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) defining, for each set of regions to be connected, routing which represents a suitable manner of connecting them, respecting only those conflicts which have been explicitly registered with the set currently being considered;  
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  - (b) collating all such proposed routing and resolving any conflicts in a symmetric manner;
  - 15 (c) registering such conflicts with the sets of regions which will be required to respect them on the next pass;
  - (d) repeating steps (a) to (c) until a sufficient completion and quality of routing solution is attained; and
  - 20 (e) converting the routing into suitable geometric representations of routing paths in a way which takes all desired routing into account symmetrically and simultaneously.
4. A method according to claim 3, in which the regions are polygons and the shared boundaries are edges.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the interconnected regions are regions of an electrical circuit.  
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